

Pre-Kindergarten Pilot Implementation Update

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Agenda

- * Program Overview
- * ELAC Overview
- * Implementation Considerations
- * Timeline
- * State Board of Education Role

Statutory Requirements

“Early Education Grant Pilot Program”

- * Five county Pilot Program.
- * Eligible 4-year-olds are from families whose income is at or below 127% of the federal poverty level.
- * Eligible providers are: i) public schools (including charter schools) and child care facilities who meet Level 3 or 4 Paths to QUALITY™ and ii) accredited nonpublic schools.
- * Between 10 – 50 % of the funding for the Program must come from private or other sources.
- * Kindergarten readiness assessment.
- * Outcomes-based accountability system.
- * Family/parental engagement.

Pre-K Pilot Funding

- * Up to \$15 million dollars may be expended annually.
 - * \$10 million appropriated from FSSA reversions.
 - * Between \$1 - \$5 million in matching private funds.
- * \$1 million is appropriated for the longitudinal study.
- * Statute permits a per-child grant amount between \$2,500-\$6,800.
- * The program could serve between 2,205-6,000* children depending on the program design and the percentage of match raised.
 - * Different delivery models will be encouraged, e.g., half-day, full-day, intensive summer program, school-year program.

* assuming the full 50% match is raised.

Grants and Matching Funds

- * Early Education grants are awarded directly to eligible families – NOT to providers.
- * Matching fund dollars will be managed by FSSA and awarded as part of the grant.
- * Matching fund dollars may be limited by a donor to eligible children participating in the program within a specific county.
- * Matching fund dollars may not be limited to a specific provider, as there is no requirement that a participating family select a specific provider.

Summer Study Commission

- * **Summer Study Commission report due to Legislative Council by November 1, 2014. The report is intended to inform the Pre-K Pilot design.**
- * Commission tasked with 10 duties, including:
 - * Study the feasibility of obtaining a Head Start and a Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) block grant to fund prekindergarten or early learning education programs in Indiana.
 - * Review whether other states have developed rigorous accountability standards for prekindergarten or early learning programs.
 - * Study opportunities to equip parents with skills necessary to improve the parents' ability to contribute to their child's early education.
 - * Study the economic benefits of prekindergarten or early learning programs.
 - * Study opportunities to partner with an investment group or entity to establish an investment fund or vehicle to finance early education in Indiana.

Longitudinal Study

- * The study will compare eligible children against similar students who did not receive pre-K services.
- * The study must include a comparison of assessment results in 3rd grade.
- * The study can cost no more than \$1,000,000.
- * FSSA will coordinate an RFP process to select the evaluator.
- * Contract must be executed before pilot begins so study can be designed and baseline data can be collected at the start of the pilot.

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Early Learning Advisory Committee(ELAC)

- * ELAC was established during the 2013 session and met for the first time in October.
- * The first round of Early Childhood Education Matching Grants (HEA 1001-2013) were awarded April 2014.
- * Grants were made to:
 - * 30 Organizations
 - * 15 counties
 - * Serving approximately 500 children
 - * \$1,457,733 was granted with \$1,539,859 in matching funds.
- * These grants are helping to build provider capacity as we transition to the Pre-K Pilot. Note that these are grants to providers and not to children.
- * ELAC critical part of Pre-K Pilot design and implementation.

ELAC Advisory Work Groups

- * Seven advisory work groups with over a hundred members have been created to support the work of ELAC and to address the summer study session requirements included in HEA 1004-2014.
 - * Child Development and Well-Being
 - * Family Engagement
 - * Evaluation of Child Outcomes
 - * Provider Participation and Advancement
 - * Workforce and Professional Development
 - * Funding Streams
 - * Data Coordination and System Building
- * Statutory deadline of June 30: ELAC report to Governor and Legislative Council.

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Indiana Program Objectives

- * Establish high-quality program that serves children well by preparing them for Kindergarten
- * Establish effective and efficient systems and processes for participating families and providers
- * Ensure good use of federal and state resources

Indiana Program Design Considerations

- * Program design considerations:
 - * Designing, approving, and implementing a new Kindergarten readiness assessment.
 - * Developing and implementing an outcomes-based accountability system.
 - * Providers want to know how they will be held accountable before signing up to participate.
 - * Ensuring proper IT and staffing infrastructure in place to implement the program.
 - * Incorporating output from the summer study commission into program design (report is due by November 1, 2014).

Indiana Program Implementation Considerations

- * Program implementation considerations:
 - * Ensuring provider capacity – a robust set of options for families, including existing and new providers, private and public/charter.
 - * Providers need to ensure they meet quality criteria, hire staff, prepare curriculum, establish systems for longitudinal study.
 - * Ensuring community and family engagement (e.g., participation).
 - * Fundraising activities.
 - * Potential challenges due to inability to raise matching funds for providers – must be for eligible children in participating county.
- * Longitudinal Study – Evaluator selection via RFP process, state procurement/contracting timelines.

Lessons Learned - Minnesota

- * Awarded RTT-ELC grant in December 2011, with implementation in November 2012.
- * Numerous implementation issues – “always behind the eight ball”
 - * Difficulty in developing necessary infrastructure/processes.
 - * Not enough qualified providers – existing qualifying programs did not have enough time to expand to fill need and new programs did not have enough time to qualify.
 - * Not enough participating children – You “need to understand communities and to identify and implement successful strategies to engage and recruit families.”
 - * Needed more time to integrate successfully and efficiently with current programs (e.g., Head Start).
- * Find themselves still addressing unanticipated policy and implementation issues in 2014.

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Timeline (see handout)

Task	APRIL 2014	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY 2015	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY
Steering Committee Convened																
Advisory Working Group Selected																
Advisory Working Group Convenes																
Summer Study Commission Staffing																
Five Counties Selected & Announced																
Matching Fund Guidelines Developed & Published																
Fundraising Activities for Matching Funds																
Pilot Program Designed																
SBOE Review of Pilot Program, Accreditation & RFP																
Pilot Program Guidelines Announced																
Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Identified																
SBOE Approves Recommended Kindergarten Readiness Assessment																
Kindergarten Readiness Assessment: Training & Implementation																
Outcomes-Based Accountability System Developed																
Accountability System: Training & Implementation																
Provider Verification Process Developed																
Provider Eligibility Outreach/Technical Assistance																
Provider Application Process																
List of Eligible Providers Published & Updated																
RFP for Longitudinal Study Developed																
Evaluator for Longitudinal Study Selected																
Student/Family Application Process Developed																
Student/Family Application Communications																
Student/Family Applications Process																
ESSA Implementation Infrastructure Developed (Policy & IT)																

Key Milestones

- * May 2014 – Advisory working group selected and convened.
- * June 2014 – County selection process underway.
- * July 2014 – Five counties selected/ fundraising activities begin.
- * July 2014 – SBOE reviews program design & private provider approval process.
- * August 2014 – Provider approval process begins (rolling basis).
- * September 2014 – SBOE approves kindergarten readiness assessment for use during Pre-K Pilot.
- * November 2014 – Summer Study Commission completes report/ evaluator selected for longitudinal study.
- * December 2014 – Accountability system finalized.

Five County Selection Process

- * Advisory working group consisting of early learning experts will assist in county selection process.
- * Two stages:
 - * Stage 1 (May 23): Advisory group convenes to assist FSSA in narrowing the number of eligible counties to 18 through objective measures (e.g., # of eligible students and providers, geographic diversity and rural/urban balance).
 - * Stage 2 (June 4): The 18 counties selected in stage 1 are invited to submit proposals to FSSA on county “readiness” (including fundraising efforts, provider participation, community engagement, etc.). Proposals are due on June 30.
- * July 2014 – FSSA selects final five counties; complete program specifications announced to the public.

Full Launch by July 2015

- * HEA 1004 as introduced called for one planning year and launch in fall 2015; administration's testimony during 2014 session consistent with this timeframe
- * Focus upon quality implementation
- * Pilot will build upon new ELAC grants awarded to providers in 15 counties, which will serve 500 children in 2014-15
- * However, sense of urgency to serve more children
- * Governor has challenged FSSA to challenge the selected counties to present credible plans for a launch in early 2015, assuming adherence to quality criteria. Otherwise, launch is planned for July 2015.

2015 Timeline Drivers

- * Many programmatic elements still under design
- * Summer study commission report due November 1, 2014, to inform pilot parameters
- * FSSA infrastructure modifications can't begin until counties selected
- * Provider capacity concerns for new types of providers not currently offering services
 - * Public/charter schools – must be certified as at least a 3 according to Paths to Quality
 - * Private providers – approval as necessary by SBOE
- * Identifying qualifying children in time for quality launch
- * Ensuring sufficient baseline for longitudinal study
- * Completing RFP for longitudinal study evaluator

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State Board of Education Role

July 9 Meeting

- * Before implementing the pilot program, FSSA must submit the provisions of the pilot program to the State Board of Education for review and comment.

September 3 Meeting

- * State Board of Education approves Kindergarten readiness assessment for purposes of pilot program.

November Meeting

- * FSSA consults with the State Board of Education before entering into a contract to carry out the longitudinal study.